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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02929 150942Z

21
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 070044
O 150802Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3681
INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAIGON 2929

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON USDAO SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG
15 MAR 75 RPT TO YOU

QUOTE

S E C R E T NHA TRANG 0165

EXDIS

DAO FOR AOSOP/IX-IS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS
SUBJECT: MR-II MILITARY SITREP

1. AS OF THE MORNING OF MARCH 15, THE OPERATION IN DARLAC TO
RETAKE BAN ME THUOT APPEARS TO BE TEMPORARILY STALLED AT THE
YA NIAEH RIVER ABOUT 17 KILOMETERS EAST OF BAN ME THUOT ON HIGHWAY
14. ALTHOUGH THE 44TH REGT HAS NOT YET ARRIVED (IT IS SLATED
TO DO SO TODAY), THE 45TH REGT AND THE 21ST RANGERS STARTED THEIR
MOVE TOWARDS THE CITY. THEY REPORTEDLY RAN INTO HEAVY RESISTANCE
WEST OF THE YA NIAEH AND LOST THREE OF THEIR FOUR 105MM HOWITZERS.
HOWEVER, THEY CLAIMED 4 COMMUNIST TANKS DESTROYED BEFORE RETURNING
TO THEIR PRESENT LINE. ACCORDING TO DEPUTY II CORPS COMMANDER,
GEN LE VAN THAN, THE 23RD DIVISION IS SERIOUSLY SHORT OF 105MM
GUNS TO PROTECT THE AREA AROUND ITS HQS AT PHUOC AN (APPROX
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BQ 100053).

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2. IN KONTUM SAPPERS ATTACKED A VETERANS' HOUSING AREA IN THE CITY AT ABOUT 0030 THIS MORNING (MAR 15) AND DESTROYED SEVERAL BUILDINGS. FIVE CIVILIANS WERE KIA AND MANY OTHERS WIA. KONTUM ALSO TOOK FOUR 107 MM ROCKETS ON MARCH 14, BUT THESE CAUSED NO CASUALTIES.

3. A MAJOR OPERATION TO REOPEN HIGHWAY 21 IN KHANH DUONG DISTRICT OF KHANH HOA BEGAN AT 151000 HRS. COL. PHAM, THE PROVINCE CHIEF, REPORTEDLY HAS FIRM ORDERS TO HAVE IT OPEN TODAY. HILL 519 (BQ 435161) IS STILL HELD BY AN UNKNOWN SIZED BUT STRONG COMMUNIST FORCE AND IS THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO REOPENING THE ROAD. IN SOUTHERN KHANH HOA, 5 KM SOUTHWEST OF NHA TRANG, A GVN RECON UNIT SIGHTED AN ESTIMATED COMMUNIST COMPANY. ARTILLERY HAS BEEN CALLED IN ON IT BUT THE RESULTS OF THE SHELLING HAVE NOT BEEN REPORTED.

4. THE PRINCIPAL THEATERS OF ACTION IN PLEIKU ARE STILL EASTERN LE TRUNG DISTRICT AND THE THANH AN AREA. NUMEROUS ABFS AND SOME SMALL GROUND CONTACTS TOOK PLACE IN BOTH YESTERDAY. DURING THE NIGHT OF MARCH 14/15 COMMUNIST SAPPERS MADE 3 ATTEMPTS TO PENETRATE THE NEW AMMO DUMP AND THE AIRFIELD, ONE OF WHICH WAS SUCCESSFUL-- AT 0320 HRS, SAPPERS BLEW UP 1400 ROUNDS OF 105MM ARTY SHELLS AT CU HANH AIRFIELD.

5. THERE WERE SEVERAL CONTACTS NEAR KIEN DUC SUBSECTOR HQS IN QUANG DUC YESTERDAY. MR-2 NHA TRANG HQS REPORTS THAT THE GVN UNITS INVOLVED TOOK 2 WIA AND 75 MIA IN THESE CLASHES. AS OF 1800 HRS YESTERDAY, 174 SOLDIERS AND POLICEHEN HAD ESCAPED FROM DUC LAP TO GIA NGHIA.

6. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1972, THE DOWNTOWN CAM RANH (BA NOI) AREA TOOK MORTAR FIRE AT 150300 HRS. ONE CHILD AND ONE POLICE OFFICER WERE KILLED, AND 27 CIVILIANS WERE WTUNDED. IT IS BELIEVED THAT SPECIAL SECTOR HQS WAS THE ACTUAL TARGET OF THE MORTARING

ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT HIT.

7. THERE WAS ALSO A SMALL PICK-UP OF COMMUNIST HARASSMENT IN PHU YEN, NINH THUAN, AND BINH THUAN PROVINCES.

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SPEAR UNQUOTE
LEHMANN

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NNN

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